

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 15, and add claim 17. Thus, claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 15, and new claim 17 may be found at least on page 2, lines 6-22; page 6, line 5 - page 8, line 1; and in Figs. 2, 3, 5, and 7. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 13 and 15 to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,815,704 to Shimotsuji et al. (hereinafter "Shimotsuji") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,592 to Reuning, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,212 to Ohmori. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Shimotsuji, Reuning, and Ohmori, either alone or in combination, at least fail to disclose, teach, or suggest that "the data input form is an electronic form that allows a user to electronically input data into information items, the input data being stored in a database corresponding to the data input form," as recited in claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12.

The Office Action alleges that Shimotsuji discloses data input forms. However, the forms of Shimotsuji do not allow a user to electronically input data into information items, the input data being stored in a database corresponding to the data input form. In particular, Shimotsuji discloses a document filing apparatus that registers a new document in file memory and retrieves the file document from the file memory (C1/L8-12). In a disclosed embodiment, Shimotsuji discloses that the document may be a form (C3/L18-19). However, the disclosed form is simply a paper form that is scanned in by a scanner 13 (C3/L31-32).

Importantly, the scanned form is not an electronic form that allows a user to electronically input data into information items, the input data being stored in a database corresponding to the data input form. Rather, the form disclosed in Shimotsuji is simply an electronic representation of a standalone form that is not linked to any database.

As a result, Shimotsuji fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "the data input form is an electronic form that allows a user to electronically input data into information items, the input data being stored in a database corresponding to the data input form," as recited in claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12. Reuning, and Ohmori fail to make up for this deficiency of Shimotsuji. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12 are patentable over the combination of Shimotsuji, Reuning, and Ohmori.

Furthermore, Shimotsuji, Reuning, and Ohmori, either alone or in combination, at least fail to disclose, teach, or suggest adding a keyword to the data input form, as recited in claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12.

The Office Action alleges that Shimotsuji discloses using keywords. However, this disclosure in Shimotsuji is simply a characterization of related art devices. The systems and methods of Shimotsuji do not add keywords to the data input form. Furthermore, the Office Action has failed to provide any motivation as to why the skilled artisan would be motivated to modify the systems and methods of Shimotsuji in view of its characterization of related art devices.

Applicants respectfully submit that the skilled artisan would not be motivated to modify the systems and methods of Shimotsuji to attach keywords to the input forms because the systems and method of Shimotsuji employ specialized marks that uniquely identify each forms (C4/L59-61). Furthermore, the systems and methods of Shimotsuji are not concerned with whether the substantive nature of an input form is similar or related to a stored form (as

might be inferred by a keyword), but whether an input form exactly matches a stored form (which cannot be inferred from a keyword).

Thus, Shimotsuji fails to disclose, teach, or suggest adding a keyword to the data input form, as recited in claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12. Reuning, and Ohmori fail to make up for this deficiency of Shimotsuji. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12 are patentable over the combination of Shimotsuji, Reuning, and Ohmori for at least this additional reason.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12 are patentable over the combination of Shimotsuji, Reuning, and Ohmori. Further, claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 16 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1, 5, and 9 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shimotsuji and Ohmori in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,438,682 to Kumagai. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

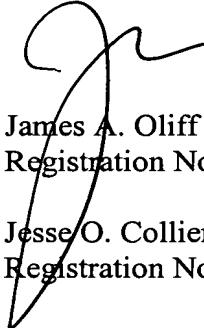
This rejection is premised upon the presumption that Shimotsuji discloses 1) that the data input form is an electronic form that allows a user to electronically input data into information items, the input data being stored in a database corresponding to the data input form, and 2) adding a keyword to the data input form.

As discussed above, Shimotsuji fails to disclose these features. Ohmori and Kumagai fail to make up for these deficiencies of Shimotsuji. Accordingly, claims 13 and 15 are patentable over the combination of Shimotsuji, Ohmori, and Kumagai. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jesse O. Collier
Registration No. 53,839

JAO:JOC/jfb

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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